

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:AEGRIFIN/MW

APPROVED BY P - MR. RAPHEL

NEA:LBLAINGEN

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

S/S:WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198406

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, US

SUBJECT: MUJIB VISIT

1. AMBASSADOR ALI MET WITH UNDERSECRETARY SISCO SEPTEMBER 9 TO DISCUSS THE PRIME MINISTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE US AND TO UNDERSCORE THE URGENCY OF RESOLVING WHETHER AN INVITATION FOR A VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT WILL BE EXTENDED TO HIM. HE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN EUROPE AND WILL BE AGAIN TO REPORT ON HIS SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING WITH SISCO. IN THE COURSE OF AN ANXIOUS DISCUSSION ALI MENTIONED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN DISSUADED FROM CANCELING HIS VISIT TO THE US, BUT THAT TIME WAS GROWING SHORT. HE ALSO OFFERED TO HAVE MUJIB CHANGE HIS TRAVEL PLANS IF THE PRESENT SCHEDULE DOES NOT OFFER ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY.

2. MR. SISCO REPLIED THAT THE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE BENGALIEE REQUEST HAS BEEN OCCASIONED BY THE PROBLEMS OF SCHEDULING PRESIDENTIAL MEETINGS DURING THE UNGA, AND DOES NOT REFLECT ANY DECISION ON THIS MATTER. HE EXPLAINED OUR PROCEDURE TO THE AMBASSADOR, AND EMPHASIZED THAT AS A CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTER OF PRINCIPLE THERE IS FULL AGREEMENT THAT MUJIB

SHOULD MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD. THE PROBLEM IS A PRACTICAL
ONE AND MR. SISCO HOPED THAT THE BDG WILL SEE THE SITUATION
IN THIS LIGHT SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS. MR. SISCO PROMISED TO INFORM
AMBASSADOR ALI AS SOON AS A DECISION IS MADE. KISSINGER

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